

The Encouragement of Faith

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Introduction: When a man truly lives by faith he has an abundant life.

- A. One who has this faith will find others drawn to them. (**Acts 2:46-47**)
 - 1. Men long for a singleness of life that is fulfilling.
 - 2. Men also do not want to be fooled by lies and acting.
 - 3. In a real crisis Paul's faith gave direction and hope to unbelievers.
(**Acts 27:21-25, 35-36**)
- B. The power of a living faith is in its ability to release us from the earthly view of life.
 - 1. There are days where I am caught up in myself I look up and see the beauty of God's creation and am reminded what is real!
 - 2. Take two healthy people; one may be filled with burdens, bitterness and distrust while the other is filled with optimism, love and purpose.
 - 3. Jesus pointed out why His followers have found this peace.
(**Mt 11:28-30; Jn 10:9-10**)
 - 4. Early in my life I saw this need for God's peace! (**Jn 16:31-33; Rom 8:18**)
 - 5. We can easily cease to walk by faith.

I. The power of a living faith in one's heart

- A. Some have never had a living faith. (**Jas 2:18-20**)
 - 1. Consider some cheap substitutes for a living faith: knowledge, activity, tradition, worship and originality.
 - 2. The glaring inconsistency of this "faith" becomes evident in time. (**Jn 18:28**)
 - 3. Be assured that our children will see this inconsistency.
- B. A living faith is full of optimism.
 - 1. There is great strength in knowing that God is with you! (**Acts 16:27-34**)
 - 2. There is great strength in knowing that money and things are not the center of your life. (**1 Tim 6:6-8, 10**)
 - 3. How does a person who is filled with this kind of joy act?
- C. A living faith is full of courage. (**2 Cor 4:13**)
 - 1. A living faith is bold and wants to help others. (**Acts 4:29-31**)
 - 2. Why would some be afraid to speak? The world will punish you with lost friendships and family that will shun you.
 - 3. Many "Christians" have given up speaking the word or will abandon those who do if their friends become upset.
 - 4. Paul knew the importance of having the right companions in this work.
(**Acts 15:37-38**)
- D. A living faith is full of zeal.
 - 1. Zeal can be best described as energy and fire.
 - 2. Where does our zeal come from? (**Tit 2:13-14**)
 - 3. Are we building a living faith?

II. There are environments that faith cannot grow in

- A. Faith cannot grow in materialism. (**1 Tim 6:17-19**)
 - 1. How will I know if I am substituting earthly wealth for faith?

2. How do you view your brethren? (**Jas 2:5-6**)
 - a. In the world the rich look down on those who have less.
 - b. What does our tongue reveal about us?
3. A local church cannot build faith in such an environment.
- B. Faith cannot grow in a heart of pride.
 1. Many glory in their ability to think. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
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 3. Pride will always form cliques and parties.
- C. Faith cannot grow in an atmosphere of fear. (**Num 14:1-2, 9**)
 1. What do we fear? What does faith say? (**1 Pt 3:11-13**)
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III. The center of our relationships as Christians is our faith

- A. The heart of our assemblies must be here. (**Heb 10:23-25**)
 1. Our assemblies and not just individuals coming to their own isolation chamber and then going home. There is a “one-another” aspect as well.
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Introduction: When a man truly lives by faith he has an abundant life.

- A. One who has this faith will find others drawn to them. (**Acts 2:46-47**)
 - 1. Men long for a singleness of life that is fulfilling.
 - 2. Men also do not want to be fooled by lies and acting.
 - 3. In a real crisis Paul's faith gave direction and hope to unbelievers.
(**Acts 27:21-25, 35-36**)
- B. The power of a living faith is in its ability to release us from the earthly view of life.
 - 1. There are days where I am caught up in myself I look up and see the beauty of God's creation and am reminded what is real!
 - 2. Take two healthy people; one may be filled with burdens, bitterness and distrust while the other is filled with optimism, love and purpose.
 - 3. Jesus pointed out why His followers have found this peace.
(**Mt 11:28-30; Jn 10:9-10**)
 - 4. Early in my life I saw this need for God's peace! (**Jn 16:31-33; Rom 8:18**)
 - 5. We can easily cease to walk by faith.

I. The power of a living faith in one's heart

- A. Some have never had a living faith. (**Jas 2:18-20**)
 - 1. Consider some cheap substitutes for a living faith: knowledge, activity, tradition, worship and originality.
 - 2. The glaring inconsistency of this "faith" becomes evident in time. (**Jn 18:28**)
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- B. A living faith is full of optimism.
 - 1. There is great strength in knowing that God is with you! (**Acts 16:27-34**)
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- C. A living faith is full of courage. (**2 Cor 4:13**)
 - 1. A living faith is bold and wants to help others. (**Acts 4:29-31**)
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(**Acts 15:37-38**)
- D. A living faith is full of zeal.
 - 1. Zeal can be best described as energy and fire.
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II. There are environments that faith cannot grow in

- A. Faith cannot grow in materialism. (**1 Tim 6:17-19**)
 - 1. How will I know if I am substituting earthly wealth for faith?

2. How do you view your brethren? (**Jas 2:5-6**)
 - a. In the world the rich look down on those who have less.
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3. A local church cannot build faith in such an environment.
- B. Faith cannot grow in a heart of pride.
 1. Many glory in their ability to think. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
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Introduction: When a man truly lives by faith he has an abundant life.

- A. One who has this faith will find others drawn to them. (**Acts 2:46-47**)
 - 1. Men long for a singleness of life that is fulfilling.
 - 2. Men also do not want to be fooled by lies and acting.
 - 3. In a real crisis Paul's faith gave direction and hope to unbelievers.
(**Acts 27:21-25, 35-36**)
- B. The power of a living faith is in its ability to release us from the earthly view of life.
 - 1. There are days where I am caught up in myself I look up and see the beauty of God's creation and am reminded what is real!
 - 2. Take two healthy people; one may be filled with burdens, bitterness and distrust while the other is filled with optimism, love and purpose.
 - 3. Jesus pointed out why His followers have found this peace.
(**Mt 11:28-30; Jn 10:9-10**)
 - 4. Early in my life I saw this need for God's peace! (**Jn 16:31-33; Rom 8:18**)
 - 5. We can easily cease to walk by faith.

I. The power of a living faith in one's heart

- A. Some have never had a living faith. (**Jas 2:18-20**)
 - 1. Consider some cheap substitutes for a living faith: knowledge, activity, tradition, worship and originality.
 - 2. The glaring inconsistency of this "faith" becomes evident in time. (**Jn 18:28**)
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- B. A living faith is full of optimism.
 - 1. There is great strength in knowing that God is with you! (**Acts 16:27-34**)
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- C. A living faith is full of courage. (**2 Cor 4:13**)
 - 1. A living faith is bold and wants to help others. (**Acts 4:29-31**)
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(**Acts 15:37-38**)
- D. A living faith is full of zeal.
 - 1. Zeal can be best described as energy and fire.
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II. There are environments that faith cannot grow in

- A. Faith cannot grow in materialism. (**1 Tim 6:17-19**)
 - 1. How will I know if I am substituting earthly wealth for faith?

2. How do you view your brethren? (**Jas 2:5-6**)
 - a. In the world the rich look down on those who have less.
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3. A local church cannot build faith in such an environment.
- B. Faith cannot grow in a heart of pride.
 1. Many glory in their ability to think. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
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Introduction: When a man truly lives by faith he has an abundant life.

- A. One who has this faith will find others drawn to them. (**Acts 2:46-47**)
 - 1. Men long for a singleness of life that is fulfilling.
 - 2. Men also do not want to be fooled by lies and acting.
 - 3. In a real crisis Paul's faith gave direction and hope to unbelievers.
(**Acts 27:21-25, 35-36**)
- B. The power of a living faith is in its ability to release us from the earthly view of life.
 - 1. There are days where I am caught up in myself I look up and see the beauty of God's creation and am reminded what is real!
 - 2. Take two healthy people; one may be filled with burdens, bitterness and distrust while the other is filled with optimism, love and purpose.
 - 3. Jesus pointed out why His followers have found this peace.
(**Mt 11:28-30; Jn 10:9-10**)
 - 4. Early in my life I saw this need for God's peace! (**Jn 16:31-33; Rom 8:18**)
 - 5. We can easily cease to walk by faith.

I. The power of a living faith in one's heart

- A. Some have never had a living faith. (**Jas 2:18-20**)
 - 1. Consider some cheap substitutes for a living faith: knowledge, activity, tradition, worship and originality.
 - 2. The glaring inconsistency of this "faith" becomes evident in time. (**Jn 18:28**)
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- B. A living faith is full of optimism.
 - 1. There is great strength in knowing that God is with you! (**Acts 16:27-34**)
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- C. A living faith is full of courage. (**2 Cor 4:13**)
 - 1. A living faith is bold and wants to help others. (**Acts 4:29-31**)
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(**Acts 15:37-38**)
- D. A living faith is full of zeal.
 - 1. Zeal can be best described as energy and fire.
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II. There are environments that faith cannot grow in

- A. Faith cannot grow in materialism. (**1 Tim 6:17-19**)
 - 1. How will I know if I am substituting earthly wealth for faith?

2. How do you view your brethren? (**Jas 2:5-6**)
 - a. In the world the rich look down on those who have less.
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3. A local church cannot build faith in such an environment.
- B. Faith cannot grow in a heart of pride.
 1. Many glory in their ability to think. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
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Introduction: When a man truly lives by faith he has an abundant life.

- A. One who has this faith will find others drawn to them. (**Acts 2:46-47**)
 - 1. Men long for a singleness of life that is fulfilling.
 - 2. Men also do not want to be fooled by lies and acting.
 - 3. In a real crisis Paul's faith gave direction and hope to unbelievers.
(**Acts 27:21-25, 35-36**)
- B. The power of a living faith is in its ability to release us from the earthly view of life.
 - 1. There are days where I am caught up in myself I look up and see the beauty of God's creation and am reminded what is real!
 - 2. Take two healthy people; one may be filled with burdens, bitterness and distrust while the other is filled with optimism, love and purpose.
 - 3. Jesus pointed out why His followers have found this peace.
(**Mt 11:28-30; Jn 10:9-10**)
 - 4. Early in my life I saw this need for God's peace! (**Jn 16:31-33; Rom 8:18**)
 - 5. We can easily cease to walk by faith.

I. The power of a living faith in one's heart

- A. Some have never had a living faith. (**Jas 2:18-20**)
 - 1. Consider some cheap substitutes for a living faith: knowledge, activity, tradition, worship and originality.
 - 2. The glaring inconsistency of this "faith" becomes evident in time. (**Jn 18:28**)
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- B. A living faith is full of optimism.
 - 1. There is great strength in knowing that God is with you! (**Acts 16:27-34**)
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- C. A living faith is full of courage. (**2 Cor 4:13**)
 - 1. A living faith is bold and wants to help others. (**Acts 4:29-31**)
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(**Acts 15:37-38**)
- D. A living faith is full of zeal.
 - 1. Zeal can be best described as energy and fire.
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II. There are environments that faith cannot grow in

- A. Faith cannot grow in materialism. (**1 Tim 6:17-19**)
 - 1. How will I know if I am substituting earthly wealth for faith?

2. How do you view your brethren? (**Jas 2:5-6**)
 - a. In the world the rich look down on those who have less.
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3. A local church cannot build faith in such an environment.
- B. Faith cannot grow in a heart of pride.
 1. Many glory in their ability to think. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
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Introduction: When a man truly lives by faith he has an abundant life.

- A. One who has this faith will find others drawn to them. (**Acts 2:46-47**)
 - 1. Men long for a singleness of life that is fulfilling.
 - 2. Men also do not want to be fooled by lies and acting.
 - 3. In a real crisis Paul's faith gave direction and hope to unbelievers.
(**Acts 27:21-25, 35-36**)
- B. The power of a living faith is in its ability to release us from the earthly view of life.
 - 1. There are days where I am caught up in myself I look up and see the beauty of God's creation and am reminded what is real!
 - 2. Take two healthy people; one may be filled with burdens, bitterness and distrust while the other is filled with optimism, love and purpose.
 - 3. Jesus pointed out why His followers have found this peace.
(**Mt 11:28-30; Jn 10:9-10**)
 - 4. Early in my life I saw this need for God's peace! (**Jn 16:31-33; Rom 8:18**)
 - 5. We can easily cease to walk by faith.

I. The power of a living faith in one's heart

- A. Some have never had a living faith. (**Jas 2:18-20**)
 - 1. Consider some cheap substitutes for a living faith: knowledge, activity, tradition, worship and originality.
 - 2. The glaring inconsistency of this "faith" becomes evident in time. (**Jn 18:28**)
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- B. A living faith is full of optimism.
 - 1. There is great strength in knowing that God is with you! (**Acts 16:27-34**)
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- C. A living faith is full of courage. (**2 Cor 4:13**)
 - 1. A living faith is bold and wants to help others. (**Acts 4:29-31**)
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(**Acts 15:37-38**)
- D. A living faith is full of zeal.
 - 1. Zeal can be best described as energy and fire.
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II. There are environments that faith cannot grow in

- A. Faith cannot grow in materialism. (**1 Tim 6:17-19**)
 - 1. How will I know if I am substituting earthly wealth for faith?

2. How do you view your brethren? (**Jas 2:5-6**)
 - a. In the world the rich look down on those who have less.
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3. A local church cannot build faith in such an environment.
- B. Faith cannot grow in a heart of pride.
 1. Many glory in their ability to think. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
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Introduction: When a man truly lives by faith he has an abundant life.

- A. One who has this faith will find others drawn to them. (**Acts 2:46-47**)
 - 1. Men long for a singleness of life that is fulfilling.
 - 2. Men also do not want to be fooled by lies and acting.
 - 3. In a real crisis Paul's faith gave direction and hope to unbelievers.
(**Acts 27:21-25, 35-36**)
- B. The power of a living faith is in its ability to release us from the earthly view of life.
 - 1. There are days where I am caught up in myself I look up and see the beauty of God's creation and am reminded what is real!
 - 2. Take two healthy people; one may be filled with burdens, bitterness and distrust while the other is filled with optimism, love and purpose.
 - 3. Jesus pointed out why His followers have found this peace.
(**Mt 11:28-30; Jn 10:9-10**)
 - 4. Early in my life I saw this need for God's peace! (**Jn 16:31-33; Rom 8:18**)
 - 5. We can easily cease to walk by faith.

I. The power of a living faith in one's heart

- A. Some have never had a living faith. (**Jas 2:18-20**)
 - 1. Consider some cheap substitutes for a living faith: knowledge, activity, tradition, worship and originality.
 - 2. The glaring inconsistency of this "faith" becomes evident in time. (**Jn 18:28**)
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- B. A living faith is full of optimism.
 - 1. There is great strength in knowing that God is with you! (**Acts 16:27-34**)
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- C. A living faith is full of courage. (**2 Cor 4:13**)
 - 1. A living faith is bold and wants to help others. (**Acts 4:29-31**)
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(**Acts 15:37-38**)
- D. A living faith is full of zeal.
 - 1. Zeal can be best described as energy and fire.
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II. There are environments that faith cannot grow in

- A. Faith cannot grow in materialism. (**1 Tim 6:17-19**)
 - 1. How will I know if I am substituting earthly wealth for faith?

2. How do you view your brethren? (**Jas 2:5-6**)
 - a. In the world the rich look down on those who have less.
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3. A local church cannot build faith in such an environment.
- B. Faith cannot grow in a heart of pride.
 1. Many glory in their ability to think. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
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Introduction: When a man truly lives by faith he has an abundant life.

- A. One who has this faith will find others drawn to them. (**Acts 2:46-47**)
 - 1. Men long for a singleness of life that is fulfilling.
 - 2. Men also do not want to be fooled by lies and acting.
 - 3. In a real crisis Paul's faith gave direction and hope to unbelievers.
(**Acts 27:21-25, 35-36**)
- B. The power of a living faith is in its ability to release us from the earthly view of life.
 - 1. There are days where I am caught up in myself I look up and see the beauty of God's creation and am reminded what is real!
 - 2. Take two healthy people; one may be filled with burdens, bitterness and distrust while the other is filled with optimism, love and purpose.
 - 3. Jesus pointed out why His followers have found this peace.
(**Mt 11:28-30; Jn 10:9-10**)
 - 4. Early in my life I saw this need for God's peace! (**Jn 16:31-33; Rom 8:18**)
 - 5. We can easily cease to walk by faith.

I. The power of a living faith in one's heart

- A. Some have never had a living faith. (**Jas 2:18-20**)
 - 1. Consider some cheap substitutes for a living faith: knowledge, activity, tradition, worship and originality.
 - 2. The glaring inconsistency of this "faith" becomes evident in time. (**Jn 18:28**)
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- B. A living faith is full of optimism.
 - 1. There is great strength in knowing that God is with you! (**Acts 16:27-34**)
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- C. A living faith is full of courage. (**2 Cor 4:13**)
 - 1. A living faith is bold and wants to help others. (**Acts 4:29-31**)
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(**Acts 15:37-38**)
- D. A living faith is full of zeal.
 - 1. Zeal can be best described as energy and fire.
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II. There are environments that faith cannot grow in

- A. Faith cannot grow in materialism. (**1 Tim 6:17-19**)
 - 1. How will I know if I am substituting earthly wealth for faith?

2. How do you view your brethren? (**Jas 2:5-6**)
 - a. In the world the rich look down on those who have less.
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3. A local church cannot build faith in such an environment.
- B. Faith cannot grow in a heart of pride.
 1. Many glory in their ability to think. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
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Introduction: When a man truly lives by faith he has an abundant life.

- A. One who has this faith will find others drawn to them. (**Acts 2:46-47**)
 - 1. Men long for a singleness of life that is fulfilling.
 - 2. Men also do not want to be fooled by lies and acting.
 - 3. In a real crisis Paul's faith gave direction and hope to unbelievers.
(**Acts 27:21-25, 35-36**)
- B. The power of a living faith is in its ability to release us from the earthly view of life.
 - 1. There are days where I am caught up in myself I look up and see the beauty of God's creation and am reminded what is real!
 - 2. Take two healthy people; one may be filled with burdens, bitterness and distrust while the other is filled with optimism, love and purpose.
 - 3. Jesus pointed out why His followers have found this peace.
(**Mt 11:28-30; Jn 10:9-10**)
 - 4. Early in my life I saw this need for God's peace! (**Jn 16:31-33; Rom 8:18**)
 - 5. We can easily cease to walk by faith.

I. The power of a living faith in one's heart

- A. Some have never had a living faith. (**Jas 2:18-20**)
 - 1. Consider some cheap substitutes for a living faith: knowledge, activity, tradition, worship and originality.
 - 2. The glaring inconsistency of this "faith" becomes evident in time. (**Jn 18:28**)
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- B. A living faith is full of optimism.
 - 1. There is great strength in knowing that God is with you! (**Acts 16:27-34**)
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- C. A living faith is full of courage. (**2 Cor 4:13**)
 - 1. A living faith is bold and wants to help others. (**Acts 4:29-31**)
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(**Acts 15:37-38**)
- D. A living faith is full of zeal.
 - 1. Zeal can be best described as energy and fire.
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II. There are environments that faith cannot grow in

- A. Faith cannot grow in materialism. (**1 Tim 6:17-19**)
 - 1. How will I know if I am substituting earthly wealth for faith?

2. How do you view your brethren? (**Jas 2:5-6**)
 - a. In the world the rich look down on those who have less.
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3. A local church cannot build faith in such an environment.
- B. Faith cannot grow in a heart of pride.
 1. Many glory in their ability to think. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
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Introduction: When a man truly lives by faith he has an abundant life.

- A. One who has this faith will find others drawn to them. (**Acts 2:46-47**)
 - 1. Men long for a singleness of life that is fulfilling.
 - 2. Men also do not want to be fooled by lies and acting.
 - 3. In a real crisis Paul's faith gave direction and hope to unbelievers.
(**Acts 27:21-25, 35-36**)
- B. The power of a living faith is in its ability to release us from the earthly view of life.
 - 1. There are days where I am caught up in myself I look up and see the beauty of God's creation and am reminded what is real!
 - 2. Take two healthy people; one may be filled with burdens, bitterness and distrust while the other is filled with optimism, love and purpose.
 - 3. Jesus pointed out why His followers have found this peace.
(**Mt 11:28-30; Jn 10:9-10**)
 - 4. Early in my life I saw this need for God's peace! (**Jn 16:31-33; Rom 8:18**)
 - 5. We can easily cease to walk by faith.

I. The power of a living faith in one's heart

- A. Some have never had a living faith. (**Jas 2:18-20**)
 - 1. Consider some cheap substitutes for a living faith: knowledge, activity, tradition, worship and originality.
 - 2. The glaring inconsistency of this "faith" becomes evident in time. (**Jn 18:28**)
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- B. A living faith is full of optimism.
 - 1. There is great strength in knowing that God is with you! (**Acts 16:27-34**)
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- C. A living faith is full of courage. (**2 Cor 4:13**)
 - 1. A living faith is bold and wants to help others. (**Acts 4:29-31**)
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(**Acts 15:37-38**)
- D. A living faith is full of zeal.
 - 1. Zeal can be best described as energy and fire.
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II. There are environments that faith cannot grow in

- A. Faith cannot grow in materialism. (**1 Tim 6:17-19**)
 - 1. How will I know if I am substituting earthly wealth for faith?

2. How do you view your brethren? (**Jas 2:5-6**)
 - a. In the world the rich look down on those who have less.
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3. A local church cannot build faith in such an environment.
- B. Faith cannot grow in a heart of pride.
 1. Many glory in their ability to think. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
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Introduction: When a man truly lives by faith he has an abundant life.

- A. One who has this faith will find others drawn to them. (**Acts 2:46-47**)
 - 1. Men long for a singleness of life that is fulfilling.
 - 2. Men also do not want to be fooled by lies and acting.
 - 3. In a real crisis Paul's faith gave direction and hope to unbelievers.
(**Acts 27:21-25, 35-36**)
- B. The power of a living faith is in its ability to release us from the earthly view of life.
 - 1. There are days where I am caught up in myself I look up and see the beauty of God's creation and am reminded what is real!
 - 2. Take two healthy people; one may be filled with burdens, bitterness and distrust while the other is filled with optimism, love and purpose.
 - 3. Jesus pointed out why His followers have found this peace.
(**Mt 11:28-30; Jn 10:9-10**)
 - 4. Early in my life I saw this need for God's peace! (**Jn 16:31-33; Rom 8:18**)
 - 5. We can easily cease to walk by faith.

I. The power of a living faith in one's heart

- A. Some have never had a living faith. (**Jas 2:18-20**)
 - 1. Consider some cheap substitutes for a living faith: knowledge, activity, tradition, worship and originality.
 - 2. The glaring inconsistency of this "faith" becomes evident in time. (**Jn 18:28**)
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- B. A living faith is full of optimism.
 - 1. There is great strength in knowing that God is with you! (**Acts 16:27-34**)
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- C. A living faith is full of courage. (**2 Cor 4:13**)
 - 1. A living faith is bold and wants to help others. (**Acts 4:29-31**)
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(**Acts 15:37-38**)
- D. A living faith is full of zeal.
 - 1. Zeal can be best described as energy and fire.
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II. There are environments that faith cannot grow in

- A. Faith cannot grow in materialism. (**1 Tim 6:17-19**)
 - 1. How will I know if I am substituting earthly wealth for faith?

2. How do you view your brethren? (**Jas 2:5-6**)
 - a. In the world the rich look down on those who have less.
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3. A local church cannot build faith in such an environment.
- B. Faith cannot grow in a heart of pride.
 1. Many glory in their ability to think. (**1 Cor 8:1-3**)
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